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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Comment: The "kontemirovskaya diviziya" mentioned in paragraph 3 of the attached report has previously been reported, twice as Kantemirovskaya Tank Division and once as Kantimirovskaya Tank Division. This division was summoned to Moscow at the time of the purge of Lavrentiy Beriya.

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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COUNTRY USSR

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History and Definition of the Term "Guards"

1. The term "guards" was bestowed on Soviet units which distinguished themselves during World War II; however, since 1945, this practice has stopped. The 8th Rifle Div., commanded by Gen. Maj. Panfilov (fnu), was the first unit to receive this honor which was given for its action in the defense of Moscow. Since that time, this unit has been widely eulogized. Panfilov was killed during the defense of Moscow. 25X1
2. [redacted] division-sized units and separate regiments had usually been given the "guards" designation and [redacted] in some instances, army-sized units also received this honor. 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
3. [redacted] there were discussions in which attempts were made to determine correctly the exact status the term "guards" had in the unit. No conclusions were reached and, [redacted] the term no longer had any meaning. During the post-war period, it could not, generally, be construed to indicate a superior unit. The only exception [redacted] which indicated a difference of troop quality, was the selected "guard" units which served in the Moscow area. [redacted] a "kontemirovskaya diviziya" [redacted] was allegedly used for show purposes, such as parades and honor guard, in Moscow. [redacted] this division was composed of selected personnel [redacted] the troops which guarded the Kremlin were selected "guards" personnel or possibly MVD personnel disguised as "guards" rifle troops. 25X1

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-2-

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Privileges Given "Guards" Units and Personnel

4. [redacted] in World War II, "guards" units received better food and better-quality clothing than that given to other units. "Guards" personnel also received more pay than regular units of the same arm, and all "guards" members had the privilege of wearing the "guards" emblem. 25X1
5. Although "guards" units were considered to be better in comparison with regular units, during the war and for a short time following the war, this distinction was soon lost. [redacted] The practice of rewarding "guards" members with better food, more pay, and other privileges, was halted immediately following World War II. 25X1
- [redacted] training was no different in "guards" units as compared to non-"guards" units even though much effort was expended to point up the glorious past of the "guards" units. There was no special recruitment for "guards" units. 25X1
6. Officially, all personnel serving in "guards" units were addressed as "guards". For example, "guards" private, "guards major", etc. The term "guards" was used in all official correspondence but the practice of addressing personnel by that official title was not closely adhered to.
7. [redacted] the time an individual was required to serve in a "guards" unit before he was officially known as a "guards" member [redacted] was about six months. When transferring from a "guards" unit to a non-"guards" unit, personnel lost the title; when transferring to another "guards" unit, the title was kept. [redacted] the Disciplinary Regulations of the Soviet Army recommended exclusion from a "guards" unit as a form of punishment but [redacted] this punishment results because the title had become cheapened in the post-war years and because no loss of pay, prestige, or rations occurred as it had during the war. 25X1

Use of the Term "Army" and "Front"

8. It was commonly accepted that a unit composed of two or more rifle corps was called an "army". [redacted] When an "army" consisted of a preponderance of armor, it was known as a "mechanized army" or a "separate mechanized army" [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
9. [redacted] in some official army literature [redacted] a force composed of two or more armies with attached units was known in official Soviet terminology, during World War II, as a "front". [redacted] graphically and numerically, e.g., the "Third Ukrainian Front". This terminology was used in World War II and was not used following the war. 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1

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